

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A communication apparatus comprising:

an audio compression unit for compressing an audio signal and outputting said compressed audio signal;

a fax-termination/switching control unit which switches from an output of said audio compression unit, carries out termination processing on a fax signal and outputs said fax signal completing said termination processing when said fax signal is detected; and

an exclusion processing unit which is provided in front of said audio compression unit and blocks transmission of a negotiation signal to said audio compression unit in an exclusion process when detecting said negotiation signal.

2. A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said exclusion processing unit removes only a signal component with a frequency of said negotiation signal from an input signal and passes on components with other frequencies.

3. A communication apparatus according to claim 1, said communication apparatus further comprising:

a single-tone-generating unit for generating a single tone with a fixed frequency indicating a fax terminal upon detection of said negotiation signal; and

a synthesis unit for adding said single tone to a signal completing said exclusion process carried out in said exclusion processing unit.

4. A communication apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said single-tone-generating unit generates said single tone at the same level as a component with a predetermined frequency of said input signal;

5. A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said negotiation signal is a signal completing amplitude modulation;

said fax-termination/switching control unit includes a detection unit for detecting said negotiation signal within one period of an amplitude-modulation component; and

said exclusion processing unit carries out an exclusion process on said input signal right after said detection unit detects said negotiation signal.

6. A communication method adopted in a communication apparatus comprising:

an audio compression unit for compressing an audio signal and outputting said compressed audio signal; and

a fax-termination/switching control unit which switches from an output of said audio compression unit,

carries out termination processing on a fax signal and outputs said fax signal completing said termination processing when said fax signal is detected,

whereby, as a procedure to compress said audio signal and output said compressed audio signal, a procedure is executed to carry out an exclusion process on only a negotiation signal, compress said audio signal and output said compressed audio signal upon detection of said negotiation signal.

7. A communication apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said detection unit confirms existence of said negotiation signal at a point of time said negotiation signal's component having a predetermined frequency is detected continuously during a period of post-detection protection and said amplitude-modulation component is detected.

8. A communication apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said detection unit confirms non-existence of said negotiation signal when said negotiation signal's component having a predetermined frequency is undetected continuously during a period of pre-extinction protection.

9. A communication apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said detection unit confirms non-existence of said negotiation signal when said negotiation signal's

component having a predetermined frequency is undetected at at least a predetermined rate of non-detection during a period of pre-extinction protection.